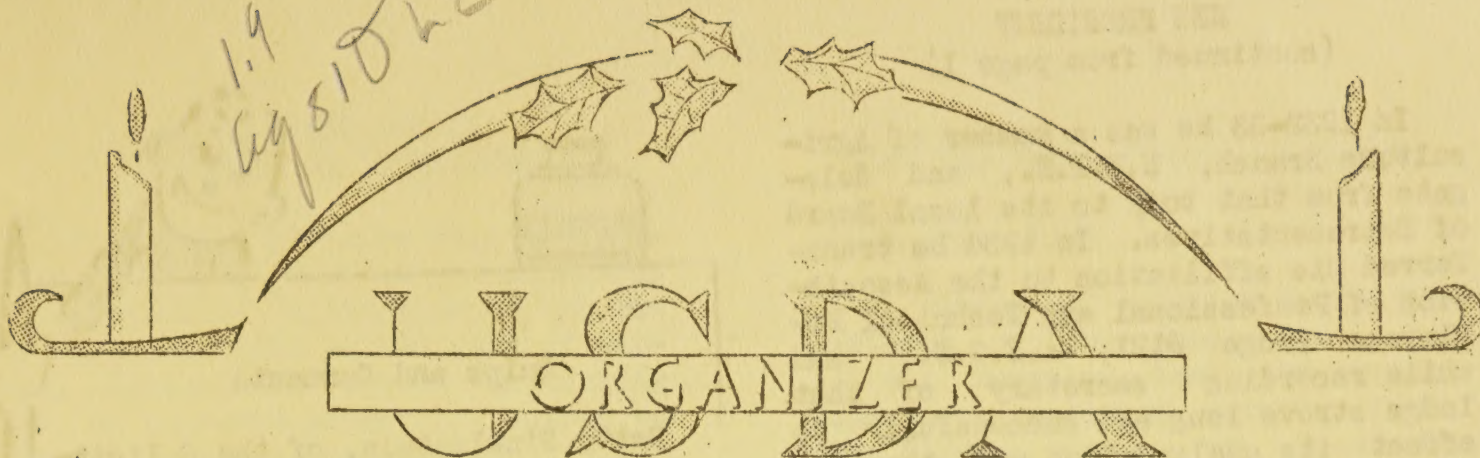


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United Federal
Workers of America

AGRICULTURE LOCAL #2

Affiliated with
the C.I.O.

Vol. 2, No. 8

December 1937

AGR. LOCAL #2 ELECTS NEW PRESIDENT

At its Dec. 1 meeting Agriculture Local #2, U.F.W.A., elected Simon Rottenberg of Field Investigation, AAA, to serve the unexpired term of John Schricker of BPI, resigned. Brother Schricker has been in ill health for some months past and has found it impossible to properly coordinate the varied activities of the Local. He is glad that he is now free, pending full recovery of his health, to concentrate his attention on the all-important Adjustment Committee.

Brother Rottenberg has heretofore shown an active interest in the affairs of the Local and has done excellent work as Chairman of the Education Committee which edits and publishes the "Organizer." His elevation to the presidency is at once appropriate and timely.

The duties of Education Chairman have been taken over by Brother George Brinkmann, who has shown himself to be a tireless worker in many phases of union activity.

While reluctantly accepting the resignation of Brother Schricker, the Local expresses its appreciation of the work he has done in furthering union organization in the Department of Agriculture. He has long been an advocate of unity among unions, if not by actual amalgamation, at least by union cooperation.

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PETITION FOR A 5-DAY WEEK!

Do we government workers want a five-day week?

Our chance has come to tell Congress that we want it and want it now.

Petitions to Congress in support of the Federal Workweek Act H.R. 8431, introduced by Rep. McCormack, are now circulating among the employees of the Department. They state:

"Because the United States Government, as the Government of a democratic people, should act as a model employer in its relations with its employees, and, since private industry is rapidly extending the benefits of the five-day week to its employees at little or no additional cost, and, since a five-day week for Federal employees is consonant with both the productivity of our country and needs of our people, we, the undersigned employees of the Federal Government, respectfully petition the members of both Houses of Congress to enact into law, at their earliest possible convenience, the bill now before them, entitled 'A Federal Workweek Act', H.R. 8431."

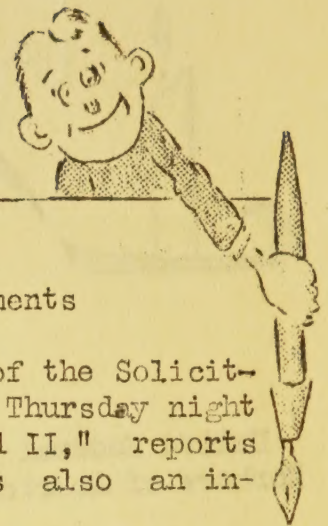
Private industry has already taken this step boldly. Large sections of private industry--mining and the garment trades, among others,--have already introduced it and found it fea-

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NEW PRESIDENT
(continued from page 1)

In 1932-33 he was a member of Agriculture Branch, N.F.F.E., and delegate from that body to its local Board of Representatives. In 1934 he transferred his affiliation to the Association of Professional and Technical Employees Lodge #121, A.F.G.E., and while recording secretary of that lodge strove long and successfully to effect its amalgamation with two other lodges in Agriculture, Nos. 170 and 31. Last year, as first president of the rejuvenated A.F.G.E. Lodge 31, Brother Schricker encouraged cooperation with other progressive A.F.G.E. lodges in their efforts to establish effective adjustment procedure for Federal employees and to combat a threatened wave of false economy. These activities last July led to their formation, under the CIO, of the United Federal Workers of America with full democratic rights to continue the progressive work initiated by them. Agriculture Lodge #31, AFGE, thus became Agriculture Local #2, UFWA, with Brother Schricker as its first president.

While a member of the A.F.G.E., Brother Schricker attended three national conventions, twice as a representative of Lodge 121 and once as representative of Lodge 31. At present he is observing with interest the tentatives of peace between the AF of L and the CIO with prospects of once again carrying on for progressive unionism in a united labor movement.



Quips and Comments

Betty Finklestein, of the Solicitor's Office, at the Thursday night performance of "Richard II," reports that John L. Lewis was also an interested spectator.

* * *

John Adams Schricker's musicales at his home, on alternate Saturday nights, always popular since their inception, are going in for Beethoven in a big way. Mrs. Schricker serves appetizing midnite snacks before reluctant departures.

* * *

Ruth Riley of Biological Survey got her picture in the paper the other day, in a dancing pose. She teaches a class in dancing at the Federal Workers School.

* * *

A recent partial survey showed that members of Agriculture Local #2, U.F.W.A., come from at least twenty-one states and the District of Columbia.

New York is represented by at least 15; Texas by 4; Illinois, New Hampshire and Virginia, by 3 each; Connecticut, Maryland, Minnesota and Rhode Island by two each; and so on.

* * * * *

J D I N L O C A L # 2 T O D A Y

Name _____ Date _____
Home Address _____
Bureau _____ Bldg. _____
Room No. _____ Office Phone No. _____

Fill out this blank and send it in to John A. Schricker,
Room 3630, South Building, Dept. of Agriculture

AGRICULTURE UNIONS COOPERATE ON PROMOTIONS

It is with pleasure that Agriculture Local #2, U.F.W.A., announces the successful culmination of the cooperative efforts on the part of several Agriculture unions in working out an improved promotions policy to present to the Administration. A letter signed by the unions, requesting an appointment, is on its way to Dr. Stockberger.

Agriculture Local #2, U.F.W.A., took the lead in calling meetings several months ago to which it invited representatives of Agriculture Branch N.F.F.E., Bureau of Public Roads Lodge #344, A.F.G.E., Farm Security Local #4, U.F.W.A., Beltsville Local #36, U.F.W.A., and Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation Local #29, U.F.W.A., to discuss the inadequacies of the old promotions policy and how to improve it.

Although the procedure followed in working out this new promotions plan has entailed much more time than would have been necessary for Local #2 to carry it out by itself, the tremendous benefit of obtaining other points of view and receiving from the other representatives valuable suggestions and criticisms has demonstrated that on any policy affecting all the employees, whenever possible it is advantageous for all employee groups to work together. In addition, of course, the support for the particular plan by all employees is greatly multiplied.

It is our understanding that the A.F.G.E. and N.F.F.E. do not place the tremendous emphasis upon adjustment work that the U.F.W.A. unions do but whenever possible, Agriculture Local #2, U.F.W.A., will always be more than glad to cooperate with these unions, as well as with the U.F.W.A. unions, on plans for the benefit of Agriculture employees.

WHAT THE OTHER UNIONS ARE DOING

LABOR LOCAL # 12

A survey of salaries in the Department of Labor instituted by Local #12 revealed that the average Department employee earning less than \$2000 waited at least five years for a \$60.00 administrative raise.

FARM SECURITY LOCAL #4

The Adjustment Committee of Local #4 has secured for the employees a 30-day dismissal notice plus accrued annual leave.

SOCIAL SECURITY LOCAL #10

Reclassifications continue apace at the Social Security Board due to its enterprising Adjustment Committee. Fifteen salary increases for clerical workers in one section of the Board is an example of results obtained by that committee.

RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

The Adjustment Committee has obtained a 5½ month extension of an employee's probationary period after he had been dismissed.

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE

Right to appeal denial of promotions where vacancies have been filled was obtained by the Adjustment Committee; also several much needed reclassifications.

The Adjustment Committee of Local #2 is set up and prepared to do just such work for the employees of the Department of Agriculture.

Wed. Dec. 15, 8:00 P.M. - NEXT MEETING, LOCAL #2 - 532-17th St., N.W.

ARE WE MICE OR ARE WE MEN? ●

Are we going to be content to gnaw at a lonesome crumb in our attics on Christmas Day?

O R

Are we going to go to the Christmas Day Dinner Party at Bonat's Cafe for Good Food--Good Fun--Good Fellowship?

All Right, Then. Avoid the crush. Be sure and place your reservations before Monday, December 20, with Nellie Shaffer, Room 4837 South Building (home phone Metropolitan 4766) or with John Schricker, Rm. 3630 So. Bldg.

ALL THE BEST PEOPLE WILL BE THERE!

WHERE? Bonat's Cafe
1022 Vermont Ave.

WHEN? Christmas Day
Sat. Dec. 25
5 P.M.

HOW MUCH? \$1.25 per
person

Sponsored by: Agriculture Local #2, U.F.W.A.
For Dept. of Agriculture employees and their friends.

5-DAY WEEK

(continued from page 1)

sible. We cannot let the Government lag behind in its standards.

The United Federal Workers of America, alert to this need of Government workers, got its legal talent together and framed the Federal Workweek Act.

They are doing the same for other legislative problems. Already a Federal Workers Appeals Bill has been introduced providing for the choosing of a referee by the employee or his representative and the Civil Service Commission to hear all employee appeals arising in the Service.

A real minimum wage bill is in the process of being written. So also is a bill providing machinery for transfer and re-employment in the Service.

All these bills have been or shortly will be introduced. But that is only the first step towards passage. We must tell Congress and the

public how much we want them, how important they are. Letters to Congressmen or to the newspapermen in support of the five-day week bill are in order.

And the employees of Agriculture can be sure that they are getting the full support and publicity that the U.F.W.A. and C.I.O. can give them on this and other bills.

